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Going to Japan by Way of Mexico

Learn how to ask when someone will go or come to a place

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Dialogue - Japanese

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Kanji English Rōmaji Hiragana All

A: いつ にほん に きますか。

B: 6がつです。メキシコ と にほん に いきます。

A: メキシコ？

B: はい。いもうと の けっこんしき に いきます。

そのあと、にほん に いきます。

A: あー！

Vocabulary

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English Kana Rōmaji

いもうと [いもうと] 1 EXAMPLE

younger sister

いもうとがいます。

I have a younger sister.

けっこんしき [けっこんしき] 1 EXAMPLE

wedding

けっこんしきはいつですか。

When's the wedding?

そのあと [そのあと] 1 EXAMPLE

after that

とうきょうにいきます。そのあと、きょうとにいきます。

I'm going to Tokyo. After that, I'm going to Kyoto.

にほん [にほん] 1 EXAMPLE

Japan

わたしはにほんがすきです。

I like Japan.

きます [きます] 1 EXAMPLE

to come;V3 -masu form

たなかさんはパーティーにきますか。

Is Mr./Ms. Tanaka coming to the party?

いつ [いつ] 1 EXAMPLE

when

いつ アメリカ に いきますか。

When are you going to America?

6がつ [ろくがつ] 1 EXAMPLE

June

6がつ、とうきょうにいきます。

I'm going to Tokyo in June.

メキシコ [メキシコ] 1 EXAMPLE

Mexico

わたしはメキシコがすきです。

I like Mexico.

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Lesson Notes

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Lesson Focus

The Focus of This Lesson Is Asking When Someone Will Go or Come to a Place.
Itsu Nihon ni kimasu ka.
いつ にほん に きますか。
"When are you coming to Japan?"

In this lesson, you'll learn how to ask "When are you coming?" or "When are you going?" using the question word *itsu*.

Review: *Ikimasu*/*Kimasu*

Ikimasu ("go") and *kimasu* ("come") are the two most common verbs of movement in Japanese. Let's review the sentence structure below...

Formation

- [Subject] *wa* [place] *ni ikimasu.* → "[Subject] goes/will go to [place]."
- [Subject] *wa* [place] *ni kimasu.* → "[Subject] comes/will come to [place]."

* The particle *ni* marks the place the subject goes to or comes to.

Sample Sentences

SUBJECT	*WA*	PLACE	*NI*	VERB OF MOVEMENT	"ENGLISH"
Sara	*wa*	*Mekishiko*	*ni*	*ikimasu.*	"Sara goes/will go to Mexico."
Kaori		*koko*		*kimasu.*	"Kaori comes/will come here."

Asking When Someone Will Go/Come to a Place

You can ask when someone will go or come to a place by simply adding the question word *itsu, meaning* "when," to a ques-tion sentence.

Formation

- *Itsu* [subject] *wa* [place] *ni ikimasu ka.* → "When will [subject] go to [place]?"
- *Itsu* [subject] *wa* [place] *ni kimasu ka.* → "When will [subject] come to [place]?"

Sample Sentences

"WH-" WORD	SUBJECT	*WA*	PLACE	*NI*	VERB OF MOVEMENT	*KA*	"ENGLISH"
Itsu	*Sara*	*wa*	*Mekishiko*	*ni*	*ikimasu.*	*ka.*	"When will Sara go to Mexico?"
	Kaori		*koko*		*kimasu.*		"When will Kaori come here?"

Examples from This Dialogue

1. いつ (テイラーさんは)　にほん に きますか。
   Itsu (*Teirā-san wa*) *Nihon ni kimasu ka.*
   "When are you coming to Japan (Taylor)?"
2. 6がつです。（わたしは）メキシコ と にほん に いきます。
   Roku-gatsu desu. (*Watashi wa*) *Mekishiko to Nihon ni ikimasu.*
   "June. I'm going to Mexico and Japan."
3. （わたしは）いもうと の けっこんしき に いきます。
   (*Watashi wa*) *Imōto no kekkonshiki ni ikimasu.*
   "I'm going to my little sister's wedding."
4. *Sono ato*, (*watashi wa*) *Nihon ni ikimasu.*
   そのあと、（わたしは）にほん に いきます。
   "After that, I'm going to Japan."

Reference

- *no* (particle) → Absolute Beginner Season 1 Lesson 10
- *to* (particle) → Absolute Beginner Season 2 Lesson 6
- *imōto* (family term) → Absolute Beginner Season 1 Lesson 16
- *ikimasu*/*kimasu* → Absolute Beginner Season 1 Lesson 23
- months → Absolute Beginner Season 1 Lesson 25

Key Vocabulary & Phrases

★ *Rokugatsu* (6がつ)
Rokugatsu is the word for the month of "June." To say the months in Japanese, you just take the number of the month and then add *-gatsu*.

"ENGLISH"	*JAPANESE*

"January"	*ichi-gatsu*
"February"	*ni-gatsu*
"March"	*san-gatsu*
"April"	*shi-gatsu*
"May"	*go-gatsu*
"June"	*roku-gatsu*
"July"	*shichi-gatsu*
"August"	*hachi-gatsu*
"September"	*ku-gatsu*
"October"	*jū-gatsu*
"November"	*jū ichi-gatsu*
"December"	*jū ni-gatsu*

★ *Itsu* (いつ) "when"

Itsu is a question word meaning "when." Let's review the other question words that have appeared in Absolute Beginner series 1 and 2!

JAPANESE	"ENGLISH"
Nan	"What"

Nan-ji	"What time"
Doko	"Where"
Itsu	"When"
Ikura	"How much"

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Grammar

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Below is a list of the grammar points introduced or used in this lesson. Click for a full explanation.

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